



Dear Friends,

The Studios is honored to host the distinguished award-winning Afghan filmmaker and International women's rights advocate, Roya Sadat. After screening her film we will have a conversation about Afghanistan, including the disbandment of hard won advances for women in the country and the suspension of all art and culture under the yoke of the Taliban government. The first Afghan woman to form her own film company after the U.S. entered the country in 2002, she is self-educated, teaching herself filmmaking from books during the years of Taliban occupation when she and her sisters were forbidden to attend school.

My association with Ms. Sadat comes through our work together as the librettist of the opera adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, with a score by the distinguished composer Sheila Silver, which will have its World Premiere by the Seattle Opera in February, 2023. Ms. Sadat is the stage director and currently in production. The Studios partnered with the NEA on the very first workshop of this opera.

Luckily Roya, her husband Aziz and their two children were in Washington, DC this past August editing her latest film, *The Sharp Edge of Peace* which followed four women representatives of the Afghan government in the "peace talks" between the Taliban, the Afghan government, the U.S. and coalition forces. With the Taliban swiftly taking control had she been at her home or studio in Kabul it's unlikely she would have been allowed to leave.

Please join us for a very special evening. Our Covid protocol requires vaccination proof or negative test documentation and masking is required at all times inside the Helmerich Theater.

Kind regards,

Stephen Kitsakos
Chair, Artistic Advisory Council